

# FOREST STEWARDSHIP MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared For: Benoit School District

Prepared By: Cheryl Arnold Ms. Forestry Commission

Time Period Covered by This Plan: 2012 - 2021

Date Plan Prepared: 2012-02-15

Plan Type: Stewardship / Stewardship

This plan was developed in accordance with the rules of the Stewardship program.

**Property Name: S16-T20N-R9W** 

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#### LANDOWNER INFORMATION

Name: Benoit School District

Mailing Address: Box 189

City, State, Zip: Benoit, MS 38725 Country: United States of America

Contact Numbers: Home Number:

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Social Security Number (optional):

## FORESTER INFORMATION

Name: Cheryl Arnold, Service Forester

Forester Number: 01662

Organization: Ms. Forestry Commission

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148 N. Edison St.

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E-mail Address: carnold@mfc.state.ms.us

## PROPERTY LOCATION

County: Bolivar Total Acres: 638 Latitude: -91.12 Longitude: 33.58

Section: 16 Township: 20N Range: 9W

## **DISCLAIMER**

This information was derived from a small sampling of the forest resources. It reflects a statistical estimation that is only intended to be accurate enough for the purposes of making decisions for the short-term management of these resources. These estimations are temporally static. Events and circumstances may occur within the survey area that will physically alter the forest resources and therefore will not be reflected in this plan.

#### INTRODUCTION

This Forest Stewardship Management Plan will serve as a guide for accomplishing the goals and objectives for your property. In addition to addressing your specific goals and objectives, this plan includes recommendations for maintaining soil and water quality and protecting your forest from insects, disease, and wildfire. Recommendations are based on observation and assessment of the site.

## **OBJECTIVES**

#### Timber Production

The goal is to produce high quality sawtimber. This will be accomplished through reforestation and timber stand improvement practices such as herbicide applications, prescribed burning, thinning at specified intervals, and other silvicultural practices. Forestry Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

## Wildlife Management - General

The goal is to provide a diversity of habitats suitable for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat management will focus on developing a variety of food, cover, water, and space. This will be accomplished by establishing and maintaining access roads and firelanes, providing openings within the forest, and the management of trees located within the Streamside Management Zone

## PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

## General Property Information

This section is located in the Southwest corner of Bolivar County. It is approximately 2 miles west of Scott, MS. The Mississippi River Levee runs through the Northwest corner of the section. The portion of the section on the riverside of the levee contains two water areas (probably borrow pits) containing 20 acres. It also contains 55.28 acres of forestland. The portion of the section on the land side of the levee contains an area referred to as Grassy Lake and is 42 acres in size and also contains 437.19 acres of forestland. The levee itself takes up 68 acres. The whole section contains 145.96 acres of open land. It is important to note that the Mississippi Levee Board has a right of way that extends 1500 feet starting at the center of the of the levee road extending back towards the river and also extending out on the land side of the levee.

#### Water Resources

Perennial water resources were identified during a reconnaissance of the property. Intermittent streams and drains identified will be managed in accordance with Mississippi's Best Management Practices. In the Northwest corner of the section on the riverside of the levee, there are some areas that hold water that are probably borrow pit areas. This area contains about 20 acres. On the landside of the levee, there is an area known as Grassy Lake that contains about 42 acres.

#### Timber Production

The goal is to maximize the production of high quality timber. This will be accomplished through the application of timely thinning and other silvicultural practices designed to enhance timber quality and growth. Forestry Best Management Practices will be implemented to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

## Threatened and Endangered Species

No threatened and endangered species were identified during the reconnaissance and evaluation of your property. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will continue to evaluate the property for these species, and will adjust our management strategy if any

threatened or endangered plant or animal species is found. It should be noted that the Black Bear has been spotted in the general area.

## Interaction with Surrounding Property

Prescribed practices should be carried out in a manner that will minimize adverse impacts on surrounding properties. Consideration should be given to potential air, water, visual, and other impacts. In addition, practices carried out should have positive effects on the surrounding community such as improved wildlife habitat and soil stabilization.

#### Soils General

Soils were evaluated on the property to determine the suitability of the site for the proposed activities. Forest practices were planned so as to minimize erosion or other adverse effects on the soil. The following soils are identified for this property: Dowling Clay(DC) and Crevasse loamy sand(Ch).

## Archeological and Cultural Resources

No archeological or cultural resources were found during a reconnaissance of your property. However, if any of these areas are discovered at anytime on the property, special management measures will be applied immediately to preserve these sensitive areas. These areas can include churches, old cemetaries, indian mounds, old home sites, or other areas of historical importance.

## GENERAL PROPERTY RECOMMENDATIONS

Forest Protection

A healthy and vigorously growing stand is the best defense to an attack from a variety of forest insects, plants and pathogens.

**Insects and Diseases** 

Trees are subject to attack from insects and diseases. Different insects and diseases affect trees according to the age, species, and condition of the trees. Planted stands of pines and pure stands of hardwoods are particularly susceptible to attack. Since there are many different insects and diseases, no attempt will be made here to explain all of them. The property should be inspected at least annually for possible signs of insect and disease activity. Some things to look for are:

- · Unseasonable leaf fall
- Discoloration of leaves or needles
- Pitch pockets on pine trees
- · Heavy defoliation of hardwood leaves
- · Groups of three or more dying trees within a stand

This list does not cover all instances of insect or disease attacks. If anything unusual is noticed, report it to a forester. In most cases, insect and disease problems can be controlled if discovered early.

#### Fire Protection

Your forest should be protected from wildfire at all times. The best way to protect your investment is by establishing and maintaining firebreaks around the property. Guidelines for establishment and maintenance of firebreaks may be found in Mississippi Forestry Commission publication #107, *Mississippi's Best Management Practices*.

## Grazing

Tree seedlings should be protected from grazing until such time as the terminal bud of the sapling is beyond reach of livestock. Domestic livestock should be denied access to the tree planting area.

#### **Boundary Lines**

It is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure that all property lines and boundaries designating areas to receive forestry work are clearly identified and visible to all contractors.

**Note:** Some forest practices may cause temporary adverse environmental or aesthetic impacts. These practices will only cause short-term adverse impacts where they are installed. Special efforts will be made to minimize adverse effects when carrying out any of the practices. Examples include: site preparation, planting, prescribed fires, firebreak installation and maintenance, road installation and maintenance, pesticide applications and timber harvesting.

## Water Quality Protection

The objective of the landowner is to protect, preserve and enhance all water sources on or transecting the property. This can best be achieved by implementation of Best Management Practices in all aspects of the management of the property.

#### Aesthetics

The goal is to assure that the property is managed in such a way that is aesthetically pleasing to the landowner as well as the community. Activities could include, maintaining buffer strips along the road and adjacent to the home site, planting wildflowers along the road, and trees with attractive fall and spring color along the drive and near the home site.

#### Ecological Restoration

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has be degraded, damaged, or destroyed. A reconnaissance of the property has been conducted and no ecological restoration activities are recommended at this time.

#### Wildlife Mgt. Target Species

The objective of this practice is to provide habitat best suited for the featured or target species. Habitat management will focus on providing food, cover, water, and space to facilitate the target species.

#### Environmental Education

Environmental educational goals are to provide educational opportunities for children and adults through the development of items such as nature trails with tree identification markers, wildlife viewing areas, picnic areas, parking, public restroom facilities.

## Wildlife Management General

The goal is to provide a diversity of habitats suited for a variety of game and non-game wildlife species. Habitat management will focus on providing a variety of food, cover, water, and space. This will be accomplished, in part, by establishing and maintaining access roads and firelanes, providing openings within the forest, and leaving mast producing and den trees.

#### Timber Management

Timber management goals for this property are to manage timber resources in such a manner as to maximize timber production throughout the life of the stand.

#### Recreation

According to landowner objectives the recreational use of the property could prove to be an avenue for personal enjoyment or for generating income. An evaluation of your property should be conducted and a plan developed to accomplish your specific goals for recreational activities on your property.

## **SOIL TYPES**

Soil Description

The main types of soil found on the section include a Dowling Clay and a Crevasse Loamy Sand. Dowling Clay is a dark colored poorly drained soil consisting of a firm clay. It occupies depressions or abandoned channels of streams. After each rain, it receives water from the surrounding slopes and tends to stay wet longer. The native vegetation included bottomland hardwoods and cypress trees.

Crevasse Loamy Sand is a excessively drained soil that has formed from coarse-textured Mississippi River Alluvium. It occurs on natural levees next to or near other recent streams or cutoffs of the Mississippi River. This soil is neutral to alkaline and has a very low supply of organic matter as well as a low water-holding capacity.

## **STANDS**

Stand Sawtimber (S# 2)

Stand Description

Stand #2 is located on the river side of Mississippi Rive Levee which intersects the section in the Northwest corner. This stand is subject to the Mississippi Levee Board right of way that was discussed in the general property description. It contains approximately 55.28 acres. This portion of the section also contains another 20 acres of borrow pits and sloughs, which could limit logging activity. The stand contains about

101 square feet of basal area and 138 trees per acre. The volume includes 30 tons of sawtimber per acre and 38 tons of pulpwood per acre. The stand is 59 years old. Species present include Sycamore, Green Ash, Sugarberry, Pecan, and Elm.

#### Stand Recommendations

This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will monitor it for fire, insect, and disease activity. Due to the right of way held by the Mississippi River Levee Board, this stand could only be thinned.

#### Stand Sawtimber (S#4)

#### Stand Description

Stand #4 is located on the land side of Mississippi Rive Levee which intersects the section in the Northwest corner. It is located within a older sawtimber stand. This stand could be subject to the Mississippi Levee Board right of way that was discussed in the general property description. It contains approximately 23.74 acres. The stand contains about 101 square feet of basal area and 138 trees per acre. The volume includes 38 tons of pulpwood per acre. Species present include Sycamore, Green Ash, Sugarberry, and Pecan. This was probably an open area that naturally regenerated iteself from seed from surrounding species.

#### Stand Recommendations

Since this stand is much younger than the surrounding sawtimber stand, we recommend that it continue to grow for the next 10 years. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will monitor it for insect, disease, and fire activity during this 10 year period.

## Stand Sawtimber (S#6)

## Stand Description

Stand #6 is located on the land side of Mississippi Rive Levee which intersects the section in the Northwest corner. This stand is not subject to the Mississippi Levee Board right of way that was discussed in the general property description. It contains approximately 37.65 acres. The stand contains about 101 square feet of basal area and 138 trees per acre. The volume includes 30 tons of sawtimber per acre and 38 tons of pulpwood per acre. The stand is 59 years old. Species present include Sycamore, Green Ash, Sugarberry, Pecan, and Elm.

#### Stand Recommendations

This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will monitor it for fire, insect, and disease activity.

## Stand Sawtimber (S#8)

#### Stand Description

Stand #8is located on the land side of Mississippi Rive Levee which intersects the section in the Northwest corner. This stand is subject to the Mississippi Levee Board right of way that was discussed in the general property description. It contains approximately 313.02 acres. The stand contains about 101 square feet of basal area and

138 trees per acre. The volume includes 30 tons of sawtimber per acre and 38 tons of pulpwood per acre. The stand is 59 years old. Species present include Sycamore, Green Ash, Sugarberry, Pecan, and Elm.

#### Stand Recommendations

This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will monitor it for fire, insect, and disease activity. Due to the right of way held by the Mississippi River Levee Board, this stand could only be thinned.

## Stand Sawtimber (S#10)

## Stand Description

Stand #10 is located on the land side of Mississippi Rive Levee which intersects the section in the Northwest corner. This stand is not subject to the Mississippi Levee Board right of way that was discussed in the general property description. It contains approximately 62.78 acres. The stand contains about 101 square feet of basal area and 138 trees per acre. The volume includes 30 tons of sawtimber per acre and 38 tons of pulpwood per acre. The stand is 59 years old. Species present include Sycamore, Green Ash, Sugarberry, Pecan, and Elm.

#### Stand Recommendations

This stand should be allowed to grow for the next 10 years. The Mississippi Forestry Commission will monitor it for fire, insect, and disease activity. Due to the right of way held by the Mississippi River Levee Board, this stand could only be thinned.



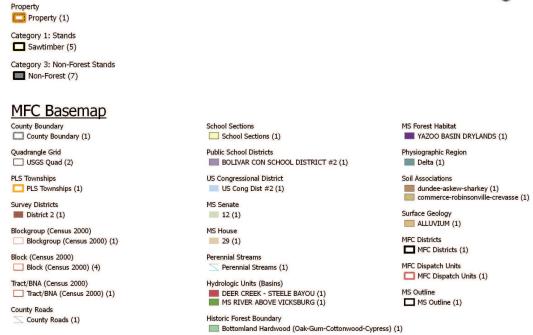
## 16-20-9 Benoit School District 2012 to 2021 638.43 Acres





## 16-20-9 Benoit School District





## Stand Activity Schedule for Benoit School District 16 20N 9W

Strata	Stand	Acti	/ity	Acre	Est. Cost	Est. Revenue
			Yearly Totals	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
			Grand Totals	0	\$0.00	\$0.00